AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 9-11, 21-23, 27 and 31 without prejudice.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) An *n*-tier apparatus for executing and processing financial instrument transactions comprising:

> - a presentation layer further comprising a workspace;
>
> - at least one intermediate component layer for supplying information to the workspace and transferring information from the interface;
>
> - at least one information source layer for supplying information to said intermediate component and transferring information from said intermediate component;

wherein said workspace further comprises at least one sub interface, which sub interface is selected from the group comprising an order entry interface, an order modification interface, an order monitoring interface, an instrument monitoring interface, and a market monitoring interface;

wherein said intermediate component layer is comprised of ~~at least one~~ a plurality of intermediate ~~component~~ components selected from a predetermined group of intermediate components, wherein said selection occurs at least in part based upon the sub interface or sub interfaces chosen;

said intermediate components of which said intermediate component layer is comprised including:

(a) a first intermediate component that provides a cache for information concerning financial instruments; and

(b) a second intermediate component that stores user preferences for the workspace.

9-19. (canceled)

20. (currently amended) A *n*-tier method for executing and processing financial instrument transactions comprising:

- displaying a presentation layer further comprising a workspace;

- supplying information to the interface and transferring information from the interface through at least one intermediate component layer;

- supplying information to said intermediate component layer and transferring information from said intermediate component layer through at least one information source layer;

wherein said workspace further comprises at least one sub interface, which sub interface is selected from the group comprising an order entry interface, an order modification interface, an order monitoring interface, an instrument monitoring interface, and a market monitoring interface;

wherein said intermediate component layer is comprised of ~~at least one~~ a plurality of intermediate ~~component~~ components selected from a predetermined group of intermediate

components, wherein said selection occurs at least in part based upon the sub interface or sub interfaces chosen;

said intermediate components of which said intermediate component layer is comprised including:

(a) a first intermediate component that provides a cache for information concerning financial instruments; and

(b) a second intermediate component that stores user preferences for the workspace.

21-25. (canceled)

26. (previously presented) An apparatus as in claim 8 wherein said sub interface further comprises a window.

27. (canceled)

28. (previously presented) An apparatus as in claim 8 wherein said workspace is user configurable.

29. (previously presented) An apparatus as in claim 28 wherein said workspace has a default configuration.

30. (previously presented) A method as in claim 20 wherein said sub interface further comprises a window.

31. (canceled)

32. (previously presented) A method as in claim 20 wherein said method further comprises the step of trading a financial instrument through said user interface.

33. (previously presented) A method as in claim 32 wherein said step of trading financial instruments through said user interface further comprises trading said instrument through aggregate pricing of said instrument.